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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/795,858	03/08/2004	Robert F. Mataya	TKMA.111006	1252
5251	7590	06/16/2005	EXAMINER	
SHOOK, HARDY & BACON LLP 2555 GRAND BLVD KANSAS CITY,, MO 64108			STAICOVICI, STEFAN	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1732	
DATE MAILED: 06/16/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/795,858

Applicant(s)

MATAYA, ROBERT F.

Examiner

Stefan Staicovici

Art Unit

1732

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 August 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 3/8/04 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 8/26/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 10-12, 21-22 and 28-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claims 10, 21 and 28, it is unclear whether the mold material is related in a physical or chemical manner to the composite material being molded (“...so that the physical properties of the body structure correspond to the physical properties required for the formation of the composite part.”). Claims 11, 22 and 29 are rejected as dependent claims. Further clarification is required.

Claim 12 recites the limitations “the one or more resin distribution channels” in line 3 and “the one or more vacuum distribution channels” in lines 6-7. There is insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations in the claim because claim 1 refers only to “one or more distribution channels” without specifying resin or vacuum channels.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

4. Claims 1-2, 7 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Crane *et al.* (US 2003/0122285 A1).

Crane *et al.* (US 2003/0122285 A1) teach the claimed mold member (20) having a flexible structure that seals to an edge (14) of a base mold (12) to form a mold device (10), wherein said mold member (20) further includes an injection port (22), a vacuum port (24) and an integral seal (26) that extends downward from the body of the mold member (20) and mates with groove (18) in edge (14) of the base mold (12) (perimeter seal), wherein the seal has a vacuum channel (28)(distribution channel) defined by wall (30) and additional walls (32, 34) that have a generally wedge shape that can bend inward to create a good seal (see paragraphs [0049]-[0052]). Further, Crane *et al.* (US 2003/0122285 A1) teach multiple vacuum channels (see paragraph [0052], lines 11-12). It is submitted that said vacuum channels are in fluid communication with said vacuum port in order for the invention to function as described.

Regarding claim 7, because Crane *et al.* (US 2003/0122285 A1) teach a plurality of vacuum channels formed by a plurality of walls, it is submitted that said seal forms a grid of sidewall flanges (see Figure 3).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 3-6, 8-23 and 25-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crane *et al.* (US 2003/0122285 A1) in view of Seemann (US Patent No. 5,702,663).

Crane *et al.* (US 2003/0122285 A1) teach the basic claimed mold member as described above. Further, Crane *et al.* (US 2003/0122285 A1) teach a molding process including, providing a flexible mold member having a plurality vacuum distribution channels molded therethrough, placing said mold member onto a mold plate where a fiber reinforced preform is positioned, sealing said mold member against said mold plate, drawing a vacuum and flowing resin through said plurality of resin distribution channels to impregnate said fiber reinforced preform and form a fiber composite component (see claim 1).

Regarding claims 3, 12, 15, 23, 25, 30-31, 34 and 39-40, although Crane *et al.* (US 2003/0122285 A1) teach a resin port, a vacuum port and multiple vacuum distribution channels, Crane *et al.* (US 2003/0122285 A1) do not teach flowing resin through multiple resin channels. Seemann ('663) teaches a molding process and apparatus including, providing a flexible mold member having a plurality of resin distribution channels molded therethrough (see col. 6, lines 7-11), placing said mold member onto a mold plate where a fiber reinforced preform is positioned, sealing said mold member against said mold plate, drawing a vacuum and flowing resin through said plurality of resin distribution channels to impregnate said fiber reinforced preform and form a fiber composite component. Further, Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to have provided multiple resin distribution channels as taught by Seemann ('663) to the mold member of Crane *et al.* (US 2003/0122285 A1) because, Seemann ('663) teaches that such a multiple resin distribution channels provides for uniform resin flow and, a simpler molding process and reusability by avoiding the use of a separate resin distribution means.

In regard to claims 4, 16, 26 and 35, Crane *et al.* (US 2003/0122285 A1) does not teach a standoff having a plurality of passages to facilitate fluid communication. Seemann ('663) teaches a standoff (60) having a plurality of passages (14) that facilitate resin flow (see Figure 8). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to have provided a standoff having a plurality of passages as taught by Seemann ('663) to the mold member and process of Crane *et al.* (US 2003/0122285 A1) because, Seemann ('663) teaches that such a standoff provides for uniform resin flow and, a simpler molding process and reusability by avoiding the use of a separate resin distribution means.

Specifically regarding claims 5-6, 13, 17, 27, 32, although Crane *et al.* (US 2003/0122285 A1) teach that said mold member is made from a resilient, durable material, such as silicone rubber, Crane *et al.* (US 2003/0122285 A1) do not teach a polyurethane material (aromatic, aliphatic, polyaspartic). Seemann ('663) teaches that silicone rubber and polyurethane rubber (aromatic, aliphatic, polyaspartic) are alternative materials in constructing a flexible, mold member (see col. 8, lines 7-14). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to have used a polyurethane rubber as taught by Seemann ('663) to build the mold member in the process and apparatus of Crane *et al.* (US 2003/0122285 A1) because Seemann ('663) specifically teaches that silicone rubber and polyurethane rubber are alternative materials in constructing a flexible, mold member (see col. 8, lines 7-14), whereas Crane *et al.* (US 2003/0122285 A1) suggests using other materials besides silicone rubber as long as said materials are a resilient, durable material. It is submitted that polyurethane rubber is a resilient, durable material.

Regarding claims 8-11, 19-22, 28-29 and 36-38, Crane *et al.* (US 2003/0122285 A1) do not teach a first region having an increased rigidity and/or an increased strength by applying a reinforcing material. Seemann ('663) teaches a molding process and apparatus, including providing regions of increased thickness (see col. 5, lines 25-32) and increased nylon reinforcing (see col. 5, lines 47-50). Further, Seemann ('663) teaches that the pattern of said multiple resin distribution channels is determined by the design characteristics of the resulting molded part (see col. 6, line 39-44). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to have provided regions of increased thickness (increased rigidity) and/or increased strength as taught by Seemann ('663) in the process and apparatus of Crane *et al.* (US 2003/0122285 A1) because, Seemann ('663) teaches that an increased thickness and/or strength provides for an improved mold member by preventing collapse during vacuum.

In regard to claim 33, Crane *et al.* (US 2003/0122285 A1) teach multiple vacuum channels (see paragraph [0052], lines 11-12) extending downward for the body of the mold member (20), the perimeter seal enclosing the entire mold member on each side, hence multiple seals being formed. It is submitted that said vacuum channels are in fluid communication with said vacuum port in order for the invention to function as described.

Specifically regarding claim 18, because Crane *et al.* (US 2003/0122285 A1) teach a plurality of vacuum channels formed by a plurality of walls, it is submitted that said seal forms a grid of sidewall flanges (see Figure 3).

Conclusion


7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stefan Staicovici, Ph.D. whose telephone number is (571) 272-1208. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:30 AM to 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael P. Colaianni, can be reached on (571) 272-1196. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Stefan Staicovici, PhD


5/26/05
Primary Examiner

AU 1732

May 26, 2005